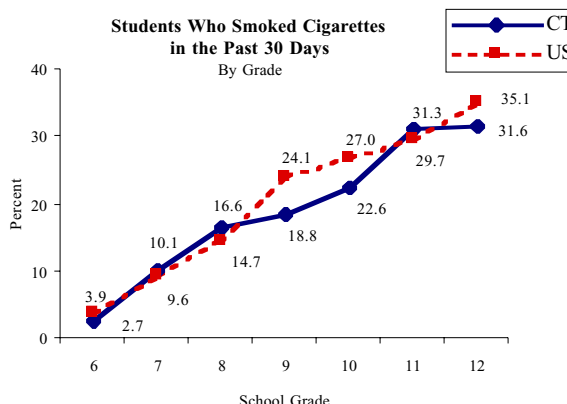


Youth Smoking in Connecticut

- Tobacco use is widespread among Connecticut youth.
 - About 75,000 middle and high school students use some form of tobacco.
 - More than 58,000 students are cigarette smokers.
 - Nearly 1 in 3 high school seniors smoke cigarettes.
 - More than 30,000 middle and high school students smoke cigars; cigars are the second most used form of tobacco among Connecticut youth.

- Cigarette smoking by grade increases nearly 12-fold from 2.7% in grade 6 to 31.6% by grade 12; smoking by grade is similar to national cigarette smoking trends.

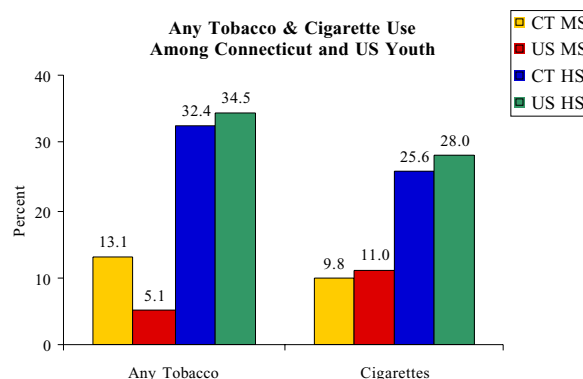


- An estimated 21,600 Connecticut middle and high school students smoked their first whole cigarette before the age of 11.
- 21% of high school and 5% of middle school students in Connecticut reported smoking cigarettes every day for 30 days at some point in their lives.

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH

Keeping Connecticut Healthy

- The overall tobacco use rate among Connecticut's middle school students is 2.6 times greater than the national average, while cigarette smoking rates among Connecticut's middle and high school students are somewhat lower than US averages.



- Kids in Connecticut buy or smoke 7.9 million packs of cigarettes each year.
- Smoking trends among youth in Connecticut between 1999 and 2000 indicate that nearly 84,000 will die prematurely from tobacco use.
- The top ranking cigarette brands among Connecticut middle and high school students are Marlboro and Newport the most heavily advertised brands.
- Approximately 41,800 Connecticut middle and high school students who have never smoked are susceptible¹ to starting smoking.
- While more than 90% of Connecticut's middle and high school students believe that secondhand smoke is definitely or probably harmful, 40% of students live with someone who smokes cigarettes.
- Students in Connecticut are 9 times more likely than students nationally to wear or use products with tobacco company logos on them.

¹ Students who think that they may try cigarette smoking soon or in the next year and who would accept a cigarette offered by a friend are susceptible to starting smoking. See Connecticut Youth Tobacco Survey 2000.